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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,538	11/30/2001	Huy P. Nguyen	PALM-3778	9994

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EXAMINER

AMINI, JAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2628

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/006,538

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Javid A. Amini

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/12/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al. U.S. patent number 6,009,338, (hereinafter refers as Iwata).

Regarding Independent claim 1, Iwata teaches a handheld computer (see fig. 1) comprising: a processor module (see fig. 3 unit 21) comprising a processor and a display (see fig. 3 unit 4 a LCD display) for displaying one or more objects (col. 30 lines 38-41, see “GUI”), wherein each object activates one of a plurality of actions executable by said processor module (see fig. 66 the steps S4-S6 are considered as a plurality of actions which are executable by the processor module in fig. 3 unit 21); a sliding display cover moveably coupled to said processor module (see, col. 5 lines 55-56; col. 8 lines 34-44), a sensing device coupled to said processor module (see col. 5 lines 52-59) and to said sliding display cover (see, fig. 48), sensing a position

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on said display of a edge of said sliding display cover, wherein said position corresponds with a location of a displayed object on said display (see, col. 5 lines 55-59), a device driver (see, fig. 42 a control unit that controls the display or LCD unit (Examiner's interpretation: the control unit is equivalent to the terms that claim discloses as the device driver) for facilitating performance of an action corresponding to said displayed object which corresponds with said position, wherein said performance of said action is initiated by a user (Iwata in the abstract discloses the performance of a desired screen display enables the user to obtain or initiate the desired screen with fewer number of operations and with less waiting time).

Examiner's note: The amended independent claim 1 is anticipated and every element as set forth in the claim 1 is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference as Iwata.

Regarding dependent claim 2, "the handheld computer of claim 1, wherein said action is a visual configuration of said display." Examiner's interpretation: a display switch for changing a size of the display area is considered as the action for visual configuration, and see Iwata discloses in col. 5 lines 63-64.

Regarding dependent claim 3, "the handheld computer of claim 1, further comprising a wireless transmitter, and wherein said action is an initiation of communication with another device using said wireless transmitter." Iwata discloses in Fig. 3 a "radio transmission" which is interpreted to be "wireless transmitter" and further Iwata disclose "wherein said action is the initiation of communication with another device using said wireless transmitter." in col. Col. 1 line 42-56 by stating "Telephone keyboard 6 for dialing keys is placed on the top of cover 7 installed on a mobile information terminal equipment body 1. Electronic note Keyboard 8 for

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character data input keys is installed from the back of cover 7 to the area covered by cover 7. A telephone mode and an electronic note mode are switched based on the output from a cover switch 9, which detects the opened/closed status of cover 7.

Regarding dependent claim 4, “the handheld computer of claim 1, further comprising a wireless transmitter, and wherein said action is an initiation of communication with an external device, using said wireless transmitter.” Examiner’s interpretation regarding the term “an external device”, the wireless transmitter is transmitting signal and it has to be an external receiver receiving the signal. Iwata disclose in col.1 line 42-56.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Iwata discloses at col. 7, lines 24-25.

Regarding dependent claim 7, “the handheld computer of claim 1, wherein said sliding cover comprises an input device coupled to said processor module.” Examiner’s interpretation: it’s inherent to have an input coupled with a processor. Iwata in fig. 3 illustrates sliding cover box 9 and the processor 21. Iwata disclose in col. 1 line 46-48.

Claims 8 -10 recite method steps performed by the apparatus of claims 1 and 3; therefore they are similar in scope and rejected under the same rationale basis.

Regarding dependent claim 11, “a method as described in claim 8 wherein said action is a display of related additional information associated with said object.” Iwata disclose in col. 7 lines 34-42 and in fig. 66 steps S4-S6.

Regarding dependent claim 12, “a method as described in claim 8 wherein said selection device is a key.” Iwata in fig. 2 number 9 illustrates the limitation.

Claims 16-20 recite a computer readable medium containing executable instructions for executing the method of claims 8-11. It is inherent to have a medium configured to store or

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transport computer readable code in a computer system. For example compact disc has been included and used in the computer systems since 1990s or magnetic data storage devices have been used since 1980s. Also Iwata disclose a software application included in his handheld computer in col. 30 lines 58 – col. 31 line 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata.

Regarding claim 5, Iwata teaches the handheld computer as described in claim 1. Iwata does not specifically disclose the sensing device is a non-contact sensor device. However, Examiner takes an official notice that such feature as recited is very well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Iwata for providing the type of sensor as claimed, for using either optical or electromagnetic switch in one or both side of a sliding cover in order to have an ability to switch on/off the display without using an extra key bottom.

Regarding claim 13, Iwata teaches the method as described in claim 8. Iwata does not specifically disclose the sliding cover comprises a keyboard. However, Examiner takes an official notice that such feature as recited is very well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Iwata for providing a method as claimed, for using a keyboard on a sliding cover in order to have a larger display area.

Regarding claim 15, Iwata teaches the method as described in claim 8. Iwata does not specifically disclose the sliding cover comprises a speaker. However, Examiner takes an official notice that such feature as recited is very well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Iwata for providing a method as claimed, for using a speaker on a sliding cover in order to have an ability to use (communicate) the handheld without sliding or opening the cover.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata in view of Hansen et al., U.S. Patent No. US 5,956,625.

Regarding claim 14, Iwata does not disclose the sliding cover comprises a microphone. However, the second reference Hansen in figs. 1-2, number 40 teaches the microphone on the cover.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above teaching of Hansen into Iwata for providing a method as claimed

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because the telephone with a built in microphone on the cover may be used as a radio telephone in addition to telephone handset which is less expensive for a user.

Conclusion

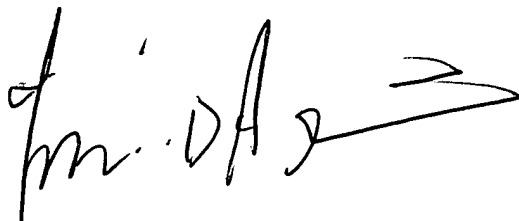
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javid A. Amini whose telephone number is 571-272-7654. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Javid A Amini
Examiner
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J.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.A. Amini', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.